

The Williams News.

Vol. 9

Williams, Arizona, Saturday, July 6, 1901

No. 49

AN AWFUL CONFLAGRATION

Williams Almost Wiped From
the Map

LAST TUESDAY MORNING

Fire Commenced About 2:30
O'clock Tuesday Morning.
Only One Store Left in
Town. Loss Exceed-
ingly Heavy.

The alarm of fire last Tuesday morning about 2:30 o'clock soon had the entire populace of Williams out to see what was wrong. It takes some time to write or relate what was wrong, and while action is quicker than sight, yet in this instance the rule was reversed.

The first up-rising was a volume of smoke coming from the roof of T. A. Fleming's general merchandise store. Heroic efforts were made by Mr. A. B. Bruner and several others to quench the flames but it was impossible, as the fire had made too much headway. In much less time than it takes to tell it the flames burst through the roof and spread with lightning rapidity to adjoining buildings and those on opposite sides across the different streets.

The flames first spread to the second-hand store of H. C. Saunders, from there to L. Schey's, gents' furnisher, the meat market of Geo. W. Martin, across the street to the Arizona Central Bank, Hotel Tolfree, E. M. Twitty, general merchandise, The Williams NEWS, Telephone Center, M. Salzman's, M. L. Ranney, and everything else in the block. The wind, while not blowing a gale, was blowing a good stiff breeze. The only store left standing in the town is the store of The Williams Hardware and Stationery Co. in the Grand Canyon Hotel building.

The loss summarized as conservative as possible, stands out as follows:

M. Salzman, \$100,000; Polson Bros., \$50,000; J. P. Parker, \$10,000; The Williams NEWS, including work on hand, \$12,000; A. Fleming, \$7,000; W. A. Polson, \$6,000; Geo. W. Martin, \$10,000; Wm. Hayward, \$12,000;

James Walsh, \$1,000; L. Schey, \$2,000; B. F. Sweetwood, \$5,000; H. F. Ashurst, \$2,500; Williams Opera House Co., \$6,000; Jos. Johnson, \$2,000; Julius Weltzler, \$6,000; J. C. Phelan, \$2,500; Charles Canall, \$2,800; Arizona Central Bank, \$5,000; A. B. Bruner & Son, \$2,500; C. E. Boyce, \$4,000; J. B. Jones, \$500; Williams Drug Co., \$5,000; Geo. W. Matthews, \$10,000; J. S. Button, \$3,000; John Nalaskowski, \$4,000; A. Drake, \$2,500.

There were numerous other small yet costly losses.

Williams should from now on for a time flourish like a green bay tree as the burg, and especially a few of the people in it, have had their share of hard luck during the past year. There will be much self-denial incurred yet no actual hardship or want, for the well-known western liberality and goodness-of-heart has come and will come to the rescue. Every-

body is like saving D—it is they watched the flames lick up everything in their path but there was no sign of quitting.

Ye editor had an order telegraphed in for a small but new outfit before daybreak. Max Salzman was coolly wiring orders for more stock while his fine stock was burning. F. O. Polson had carpenters at work arranging his track warehouse into a store. Judge Ranney, with a pound plug of tobacco as a memento, calmly rode around in a buggy taking in the sights. Judge Johnston whistled, "I'll Leave My Happy Home for You." J. C. Phelan had his butcher wagon going at 7:30. Geo. W. Martin had a new outfit and was selling meat from the block at seven o'clock.

NOTES

But for the forethought of some going around and breaking down doors and arousing people, many would have been burned in the fire.

Max Salzman and force and F. O. Polson and force fought the fire like Trojans, but all of their magnificent stocks of goods that they had in their main stores had to go.

C. E. Boyce let his own property go and used his fine private system of waterworks to help his neighbors. His fire alone saved the entire eastern part of town.

Ye editor and wife are under obligations to many for assistance in saving household goods,

and under especial obligation to Mrs. J. S. McDonald for her many kind offices.

County Attorney J. E. Jones, with a generosity unexcelled, together with Editor R. E. Jones, placed any accommodation in the Flagstaff Gem office at the disposal of the editor of The NEWS.

As a fire fighter, Mrs. Joseph Johnson unexcelled. She carried six and eight buckets at a time to the men, while great big hulks of horsemeat under disguise of men stood around and did nothing.

Among the many losers our heart goes out especially to E. M. Twitty, L. Schey, H. C. Saunders, Mr. and Mrs. Hayward, Chas. Canall and J. P. Parker. One hour and Mr. Parker had sunk \$40,000. All, have our deepest sympathy, but these mentioned carried no insurance in most cases and in the very few a meager insurance.

Mrs. Wm. Hayward and daughter, Mrs. Wm. Ergmann, Jr., are heroines in the fullest sense of the word. They woke up all the guests in the Hayward Hotel, assisted in the moving of all the guests' baggage to the detriment of their own, as they lost everything except the scant clothing which they wore. Such unselfishness is to be praised and such heroism commended.

The NEWS office burned quicker than one could say "scat!" It was one of the best equipped and neatest offices in the territory. The only thing saved was a typewriter (that is a machine). Much valuable correspondence and all the files of the paper was burned, the editor narrowly escaping with his life. It looked hard to see it go, but we were not born to be downed by as common things as fires and railroad mixups. A new outfit was being boxed for shipment in Los Angeles before the plant had ceased burning.

TELEGRAMS

The good people of Flagstaff sent the following telegram:
Geo. U. Young.

Flagstaff sympathizes. If you are in need call on us for anything we have.

E. E. ELLINWOOD.

Mayor.

J. C. Martin, the big-hearted editor of the Prescott Journal-Miner and receiver of the U. S. Land office, telegraphed:

"Accept sincere sympathy in your loss. Advise me if I can assist you."

C. M. Funston of the Coconino Sun, in his usual big-hearted way, as quick as he learned of the fire, wired up:

"Regret your loss. If I can help you, wire at once."

Genial Tom Schultz, always a friend in need, wires as follows:

Prescott, A. T., 7-2, '01.

Geo. U. Young,

Williams, A. T.

Sorry to hear your misfortune. Command the Prospect.

SHULTZ.

To show that Williams is alright The NEWS with pleasure prints the following telegrams received by M. Salzman:

Prescott, A. T., 7-2, '01.

Max Salzman,

Williams, A. T.

The citizens of Prescott and Yavapai County, Arizona, express sympathy for the citizens of Williams, Arizona, in their great loss by fire this date, and case help or relief is required call on us.

J. R. BEATSON, Chairman

Board of Supervisors

Prescott, A. T.

Mr. Salzman answered as follows:

Many thanks for sympathy and kind offer but assistance not required.

MAX SALZMAN.

Los Angeles, Cal., 7-2, '01.

Max Salzman,

Williams, A. T.

Sorry to hear of fire. Can we be of any assistance to you? Wire us your wishes.

HAAS, BARLICH & CO.

Jerome, A. T., 7-2, '01.

Max Salzman,

Williams, A. T.

Sorry to hear of your loss. Can we duplicate last car by wire? Answer here.

M. W. JONES.

Armour Packing Co.

Flagstaff, A. T., 7-2, '01.

M. Salzman.

Flagstaff sympathizes. If you are in need, call on us for anything we have.

E. E. ELLINWOOD.

The Palace

MEAT MARKET

G. W. MARTIN, Prop.

Beef, Veal, Mutton and Sausage

CONSTANTLY ON HAND

Bell Springs Butter, Oysters and Fish in Season

WILLIAMS, ARIZ.